

**From:** John Donovan [john@shellnews.net]  
**Sent:** 09 August 2006 16:41  
**To:** Van der Veer, Jeroen SI-GLOBAL  
**Cc:** Brinded, Malcolm A RDS-ECMB; Wiseman, Richard RM SI-LMAPF  
**Subject:** Revised Email

## ShellNews.net: When is Shell going to sue former Shell International Group Auditor Bill Campbell for defamation?

Posted by Royal Dutch Shell Plc .com at August 9th, 2006

An Open Letter from John Donovan To JEROEN VAN DER VEER (sent by email)

Dear Mr Van der Veer

I, a long term Shell shareholder I am extremely concerned by the serious allegations made by the former Shell International Group Auditor, Mr Bill Campbell, concerning alleged falsification of records in relation to the Shell Brent scandal.

We really cannot have a distinguished former high level Shell official being allowed to make such accusations without Shell taking action against him for defamation if, as Shell claims, they are untrue.

This is not a case of some outsider ignorant of the facts making wild accusations. The charges in this case are being made by a person of high reputation and considerable expertise following his authorised investigation as Group Auditor into the Brent safety regime.

Since a number of "accidental" deaths have occurred on Brent Bravo, two of which resulted in a record breaking £900,000 fine imposed on Shell, the allegation of falsification of records could result in criminal charges if true.

Mr Campbell is on record as claiming that he has personally met with you to discuss these matters. If this is correct, then you must be fully briefed on the issues and the allegations he has publicly made. They have been repeated in various mass media sources and in trade publications including, for example, UpstreamOnline.

Mr Campbell says that ESDV leak-off tests were purposely falsified, not once but many times. He further alleges that the inaction of the relevant Asset Manager, the General Manager, the Oil Director and the Shell Expro Managing Director in 1999 (Malcolm Brinded), contributed in some part to the unlawful killing of two persons on Brent Bravo in September 2003.

My father and I have published some outspoken articles about Shell ourselves but nothing as serious as the charges levelled against Shell management by your own former Group Auditor. And as you are aware, we have a special dispensation from Shell International Petroleum Company to say what we like about Shell.

Surely Shell is not going to allow Mr Campbell to continued repeating these devastating allegations? If they are unfounded, why have you not already instituted libel proceedings? If they are true, why have you not sacked Malcolm Brinded? Why has he not done the honourable thing and resigned?

22/03/2007

You had no compunction about bringing a draconian defamation action against Dr John Huang. Why the reluctance to set your lawyers on to Mr Campbell. If you do not take action, people will naturally assume that Shell management is unwilling to do so because Mr Campbell is speaking the truth and can prove it.

Knowing Shell management as I do, no doubt Shell undercover agents are already engaged in "activities" in relation to the loose cannon, Mr Campbell - the ultimate whistleblower. As you are aware, one of your predecessors as the boss of bosses at Shell was simultaneously the spymaster of a sinister private intelligence company staffed by former MI6 agents who carried out operations for Shell on an international basis. Mr Campbell will therefore be well advised to be on his guard at all times while these matters are still on the boil.

If anyone says anything untrue about Shell, it is your duty Mr Van der Veer to take action to protect the reputation of the Shell brand. However, you have my sympathy to some degree because Shell management blunders and misdeeds have been so wide-ranging that people who wish to criticise have an almost unlimited supply of ammunition (as the recent articles below confirm).

Conclusion: the fact that Shell has not obtained an injunction to prevent Mr Campbell making his allegations speaks volumes. He is plainly a man of great courage speaking the truth.

Yours sincerely  
John Donovan

TellShell-Live Chat.com: the "CMD", dithered, dallied, and danced the Macarena...

EMAIL TO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

ShellNews.net: constructive offer to Shell in relation to its defamation lawsuit

ShellNews.net: HSE email regarding Bill Campbell and the Brent Fatal Accident Inquiry: 6 Aug 2006

ShellNews.net: Shell defamation action against Dr John Huang: An Open Offer to Shell

ShellNews.net: a warning about tendering for Royal Dutch Shell contracts

ShellNews.net: Potential catastrophic consequences if Sakhalin ERD wells allegations are true

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The Shell Brent Bravo Scandal (exposed by Shell Whistleblower, Bill Campbell)

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ShellNews.net: Correspondence with Shell General Counsel Richard Wiseman on authenticity of leaked Shell top secret contingency plans: Monday 5 February 2007

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Jorma Ollila

Mr Jorma Ollila is the Chairman designate of Royal Dutch Shell Plc. Reportedly a man of the highest repute, Mr Ollila took up his non-executive position on 1st June 2006. He has a reputation as a dynamic and highly successful businessman. It's a long time since Shell had someone combining all of these qualities. We wish him well.

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Now I think any reasonable interpretation of this reply from Legal Counsel is that he is not disputing that there were shortcomings, but that if they use this word (i.e. get truthful for once in line with our stated business principles) then this will over excite our employees and the press who inevitably will get there hands on the statement.

With reference to Part (2) - Apologizing to the 1999 PSMR team members

I have been advised that Malcolm Brinded has spoken to the PSMR team members Hoskins, Madden, Merry and Mutimer and this is covered already in the Shell statement (see Appendix)

With reference to Part (3) - Apologizing to the enforcing authority, the HSE

Kieron has met with the new Head of the Offshore Safety Division (the HSE) in Aberdeen.

He later, along with the Shell UK Country Chairman James Smith, met with the CEO of the HSE. Kieron advised me at our last meeting that these were bridge building meetings where Shell did indicate atonement for past dealings and wished to lay the foundation for better and more open communications in the future.

With reference to Part (4) - Talking to the workforce about past failures in communication

I did not get in the discussions any information on any action re reparation to workforce on failure by Shell to make them aware of risks on their respective offshore installations and any action to reduce risks both in 1999 and 2003.

On a positive Note however the OILC (workforce representative's organisation) has, at Kieron's initiative, been involved more openly with Shell to establish better relationships and understanding and this is to be welcomed.

When you read the Note from Malcolm you get the feeling of intimacy between us, as if we discussed these issues together over a beer. I have not seen Malcolm since I think early 1996 and my only communication with him was a personal letter sent by me in December 2004. Its just another example of what we call in modern parlance spin, however I have no objections to it being written in this manner, but just so as you are aware.

You will see from the letter that I was employed by SIEP (on a part-time basis) as a consultant from 2003 till May 2006 leading or being involved in six major HSE –MS audits.

You might find it surprising therefore that in June 2006, a Company that had employed me, and commended me for my work, considered suddenly that I had made some very personal, and completely unjustified attacks on current and past Shell employees.

Would you employ a Consultant who had done that for over two years after he had made these allegations? These allegations were put to Malcolm in the letter of December 2004, he was asked if he had any objections to them being made public, either in a paper, or book, he raised no objections then, or since.

Whilst on the point, some folks who knew me in Aberdeen were critical as to why I did not raise these concerns when I worked with Shell. Well at the time when I was dismissed as Lead Auditor of the PSMR, on return to The Hague the issue was taken up with the HSE Manager, who discussed with Phil Watts and through my line to the Regional Director for Europe, Bob Sprague. I was never informed what actions, if any, they took.

I also was confident that the HSE, investigating the workforce concerns re Touch Fuck All, and all this getting onto BBC TV news and headlines in P&J and The Scotsman, would quickly get to the bottom of all this stuff and come across the PSMR findings. They did not, and why they did not is another story, for another day.

But more importantly, the two men were killed in September 2003, over a year after I had left full employment with SIEP on early retirement on the first of September 2002.

Bill Campbell

## APPENDIX – EXTRACT FROM WORKING DOCUMENT

The following is an extract from the agreed working discussion draft of the 29th November 2006. This Draft was prepared to reflect discussion between David Richmond, acting as a witness to events and myself. Representing Shell was Kieron McFadyen who most people are aware is the new EP corporate HSE Manager and a Shell EP legal counsel Keith Ruddock.

The Note was to be issued from the Executive Director Malcolm Brinded to specific EP staff i.e. EPLT, EPLF and EP Europe staff together with all HSE safety professionals, senior maintenance

community staff – JG3+ - and all audit professionals. The title of the Note was Safety Takes Priority

Working Draft -- Colleagues

### Outcome of Learning Review

Further to the previous communications sent to you regarding UK North Sea safety, I wanted to provide you with an update on where we are and to share some personal reflections. As you know, earlier in the summer there was considerable publicity regarding the 1999 UK Platform Safety Management Review (PSMR) and its follow-up. We have recently carried out a learning review of how we responded to the publicity and debate that surrounded the comments made by Mr. Bill Campbell in relation to the PSMR which were widely reported in the media. Our review process also included two meetings with Bill Campbell. The aim was to fully understand his remaining concerns while at the same time soliciting his feedback on how he viewed our handling of the matter.

Throughout our statements on this issue, we have always tried to make it clear that, we recognise and respect Bill Campbell's professional and technical skills. Indeed, he was engaged by Shell as a HSE audit consultant as recently as this year. We recognise too that his motivation in raising these issues was a desire to improve safety and in particular was prompted by his frustration at not having had his evidence heard at the Brent Bravo Fatal Accident Inquiry. He now accepts that the decision not to call him as a witness at the FAI had nothing to do with Shell. Whilst we do not agree with all that he said, there are many areas on which we are aligned, and in particular we recognise the way in which the PSMR was followed up that there were shortcomings at the time and it could have been handled better. Again in the spirit of openness I wanted to share with you the outcome of our engagements with him. Bill Campbell and Shell clearly share the same overriding aim of seeking continuous improvement in Shell's operational and HSE performance across our business.

Seven years on, it is clear that the PSMR in 1999 was a pivotal event in Shell's ongoing safety journey in the North Sea. I want to be clear that the contributions made by each of the members of the PSMR team, including Bill Campbell, were important in providing the basis for much of what has followed in safety improvements.

I have also now engaged with each of the Shell PSMR team members and relayed this message to them in person. In my view, the PSMR spurred on our focus on asset integrity and was a key stimulus for our efforts to address the "hearts and minds" aspects of safety, which have become such a major part of our EP global safety agenda. It was also a key step on our safety journey which has led, amongst other things, to the establishment of the Golden Rules, the inclusion of compliance as a separate principle in the SGBP and has influenced the way in which we look at Technical Integrity, of which more below.

I also want personally to say that I recognise that we could have handled aspects of the PSMR report-out in 1999 in a better way. The key learning being that, whatever differences of view exist, individuals who raise safety concerns should feel that their messages are being well understood and responded to. The experience also underlines the critical importance of Internal Audit in ensuring that such messages are identified, elevated and heard. Both Bill and I also believe that, although we need to absorb the learning from past experiences, it is time now to move forward. What is clearly important within EP is that we reinforce our focus on safety - and ensure that we deliver, as we should on our stated vision of making safety our number one priority in all that we do.

Many thanks - Malcolm

---

**From:** keith.ruddock@shell.com [mailto:keith.ruddock@shell.com]  
**Sent:** 27 February 2007 12:31  
**To:** john@shellnews.net  
**Cc:** jeroen.vanderveer@shell.com; Malcolm.Brinded@shell.com; Jorma.Ollila@shell.com; richard.wiseman@shell.com; michiel.brandjes@shell.com  
**Subject:** RE: Brent Bravo and Mr Bill Campbell

Dear Mr Donovan,

In your email to me of 20th February, 2007, you stated, inter alia, that:

**"Jeroen van der Veer has sent a Letter of Censure to Brinded.** It concluded that Brinded was wrong to dismiss Campbell as SIEP Lead Auditor. Brinded was also required to apologise personally to PSMR team members. A note to be issued by Brinded to EP staff and audit professionals was drafted. The tone implied that Brinded was on first name terms with "Bill". In fact they had not spoken for a decade."

In response I can confirm that there was no letter or other communication from Mr van der Veer concluding or indicating that Mr Brinded had been wrong to dismiss Mr Campbell as SIEP Lead Auditor. Equally, when Mr Brinded spoke to the Shell members of the PSMR team at the end of last year, he did so entirely of his own volition. No one had instructed him to do so. The proposed statement to EP staff was being prepared by Shell in joint consultation with Mr Campbell, as an attempt to find a mutually acceptable way forward with him - at the same time

[REDACTED]

taking this as another opportunity to re-stress critical safety messages internally, and associating Mr Campbell with them positively. The contents of that proposed statement were discussed at some length with Mr Campbell, and the more familiar use of "Bill" was intended to make the tone more engaging for staff - especially as this was how Mr Campbell was known by former colleagues, including by Mr Brinded - and not to imply that Mr Campbell had been in direct contact with Mr Brinded in recent years.

Accordingly, I do not believe that there is any basis for you including reference to any such purported communication in your article.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Ruddock

Keith Ruddock  
General Counsel Exploration and Production  
Shell International B.V.  
The Hague, The Netherlands - Trade Register no. 27155369  
Address: c/o Kessler Park 1, 2288 GS Rijswijk, The Netherlands  
Tel: +31 70 447 4323 Fax: 4380 Email: [Keith.Ruddock@shell.com](mailto:Keith.Ruddock@shell.com)  
Internet: <http://www.shell.com/>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** John Donovan [mailto:[john@shellnews.net](mailto:john@shellnews.net)]

**Sent:** 27 February 2007 09:45

**To:** Ruddock, Keith KA SI-LSEP

**Cc:** van der Veer, Jeroen J RDS-CEJV; Brinded, Malcolm A RDS-ECMB; Ollila, Jorma SI-RDS/CH; Wiseman, Richard RM SI-LMAPF

**Subject:** RE: Brent Bravo and Mr Bill Campbell

Dear Mr Ruddock

We note the usual blanket denial.

We are however publishing an article today which includes reference to a Letter of Censure involving Mr Jeroen van der Veer and Mr Malcolm Brinded. This is obviously an important matter in its own right.

If you are able to categorically state that there is no substance whatsoever to any such letter or communication, then we will remove all reference to it.

The article will be published this afternoon.

Regards

John Donovan

**From:** keith.ruddock@shell.com [mailto:keith.ruddock@shell.com]  
**Sent:** 20 February 2007 13:31  
**To:** john@shellnews.net  
**Subject:** RE: Brent Bravo Scandal

Dear Mr Donovan

We disagree fundamentally with the factual basis and interpretation of the material you have produced but believe that no useful purpose would be achieved by engaging in a detailed rebuttal. We continue to expressly reserve our position in respect of these matters.

Regards

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**Subject:** Brent Bravo Scandal

B

Dear Mr Ruddock

Re: My email dated 19 February 2007.

We had wanted Shell to have the opportunity to comment on a draft article based on information from documents in our possession and were prepared to take into account in a final draft, any comments made by Shell, particularly in relation to factual accuracy.

To give you some idea of the content, the following are extracts from the current comprehensive draft which contains devastating allegations and commentary about Shell and its senior management: -

- Campbell says that Shell's Chief Internal Auditor, Jakob Stausholm, admitted to him in a taped telephone conversation that the allegations made by Shell against Campbell in the releases were known by him (Stausholm) to be *"false and misleading"*.

- Stausholm also clearly stated in the recorded conversation from June 2004 that the EP internal communiqué did not take into account factual evidence from his investigation report. The evidence was ignored as a conscious decision to strengthen the rebuttal to allegations attributed to Campbell in an article published by UpstreamOnline. Stausholm accepted that this had the secondary effect of punishing Campbell.

- In the same taped conversation, Stausholm disassociated himself and his colleague, Richard Sykes, the EP Group Environmental Advisor, from the formation of the wording in the press release and EP internal communiqué.

- Missing files: Campbell says that files held in the Internal Audit department in Aberdeen and at the EPS-HE library in The Hague relating to the PSMR disappeared. Related records of interviews with senior Brent Bravo management when important admittances were made had also conveniently disappeared. The same applied to logbooks, maintenance records, statements by inspectors etc.

- That contrary to Shell press statements no audit was carried out on Brent Bravo in 2000.

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- Campbell says: ***"I have been thoroughly sickened by the whole process that a Company with such published principles and standards can lie, cheat, falsify and corrupt and defame the character of a respected employee who has been commended various times throughout his long career."***

Campbell has continued to publicly campaign about the alleged disregard for safety out of concern that unless past wrongdoing is exposed and culprits punished, another major accident is inevitable and that more preventable deaths will be the outcome.

Since we have not even received the courtesy of an acknowledgement, it seems reasonable to conclude that Shell is not interested in the offer. Consequently, unless we hear from you by 2pm UK time today we will assume that Shell does not wish to take up the offer and will not bother Shell further on the matter.

While writing, I would also like to draw your attention to the following article.

ShellNews.net: Update on lawsuits against Royal Dutch Shell  
<<http://royaldutchshellplc.com/2007/02/20/shellnewsnet-update-on-lawsuits-against-royal-dutch-shell/>>

No doubt Shell will let us know if it disputes what we say in this article.

Regards

John Donovan

Ruddock, Keith KA SI-LSEP

---

From: John Donovan [john@shellnews.net]  
Sent: 27 February 2007 19:35  
To: Ruddock, Keith KA SI-LSEP  
Cc: van der Veer, Jeroen J RDS-CEJV; Brinded, Malcolm A RDS-ECMB; Ollila, Jorma SI-RDS/CH; Brandjes, Michiel CM RDS-LC; Wiseman, Richard RM SI-LMAPF  
Subject: RE: Brent Bravo and Mr Bill Campbell

Dear Mr Ruddock

This is my detailed response.

It is probably wrong of me to be suspicious of lawyers, but I note that you chose to respond to my email of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2007, rather than answer directly the question I asked today about what you describe as a "purported communication". It would be very easy for you to clear up this point by simply answering on an unambiguous basis the question I put to you today. You now also have the precise formulation used by Mr Campbell to describe the Letter of Censure. An unambiguous categorical denial would also deal with what he has stated on that aspect. Otherwise the door is left open that such a communication was contemplated or issued, even if the content was different to that stated in our draft or by Mr Campbell.

I note the confirmation that Mr Brinded did speak to Shell members of the PSMR team at the end of last year on this subject. Perhaps you will find Mr Campbell's account in "The Making of Amends" document to be more accurate than our interpretation.

If you want to deal with "The Making of Amends" on a detailed basis (which we would welcome) then for the sake of clarity and the understanding of our readers, it would be appreciated if you could use plain unambiguous language so that there is no room left for doubt or misinterpretation. You could insert your comments in red text in the appropriate places throughout the document. It would be published on unedited basis. We are always willing to publish on that basis any response which Shell wishes to make to any article published on our websites. That is a standing invitation. I do not believe that we could be fairer.

Regards

John Donovan

Royaldutchshellplc.com

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